

# EASTER ISLAND

## DETAILED ITINERARY

## EXTENSION

Mar 24/18



ElderTreks is offering a fantastic five day extension to Easter Island, the most remotely inhabited place on earth. Easter Island, known as Rapa Nui in Polynesian, is a volcanic island in the middle of the South Pacific that measures only 8 by 15 miles.

The Rapa Nuians, the local inhabitants, are descended from Polynesian stock and the current population of the island is just under 3,000 people with the majority of them located in the village of Hanga Roa. They are descended from an ancient race who are responsible for the giant head sculptures (over 3,000 of them) known as Moai that grace the landscape.

Travel throughout the island, exploring the Moai, the giant heads sculpted from volcanic quarries. Climb on the extinct volcanoes, witness the surf pound the rugged volcanic coastline and travel to the site of the ancient Birdman cult.

This extension to Easter Island highlights this

### Facts & Highlights

- 5 land days • Start and finish in Hanga Roa, Easter Island • Includes 4 breakfasts and 2 boxed lunches
- Visit the Moai Head sculptures • Climb on the extinct volcanoes • Visit the Ceremonial Caves, site of the ancient Birdman Cult

### Departure dates

Easter Island connects with all Patagonia, Argentina & Chile, and Hidden Treasures of South America departures.

**Please Note:** Extensions may not have an ElderTreks tour leader. Not all members from the main trip will be participating.

### Price: from \$2495 USD

Based on double-occupancy.

Single Supplement: \$750 USD

Does not include flights to and from Easter Island.

Note: Flight schedule to Easter Island can vary. Additional nights in Santiago or Easter Island may be required to connect with flights.

A non-refundable deposit of \$100 USD is required at time of booking.

### Activity Level: 2

### Accommodations

Stay in centrally located accommodations with private washroom in Hanga Roa.

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mysterious archaeological heritage as well as the rugged beauty of the island and culture of the Rapa Nuians.

Extensions may not be exclusive to ElderTreks participants only. In few cases, these extensions may not adhere to ElderTreks' maximum size restrictions of our tours.

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## **DAY 1 ARRIVE IN HANGA ROA**

You are met upon your arrival at Mataverí airport, Easter Island and transferred to your accommodations in Hanga Roa.

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## **DAY 2 AHU TAHAI, VOLCANO-RANO KAU, CEREMONIAL VILLAGE OF ORONGO - VINAPU, PUNA PAU, AHU AKIVI**

Your morning will start with a tour of the ceremonial site of Tahai. At Ahu Tahai you will get your first look at the amazing statues that make Easter Island famous. At this site you will see three restored alters or Ahu. Aside from the ceremonial aspect of this site you will also have the opportunity to see the living village with canoe ramp, house foundations, cave dwelling and chicken houses. Afterwards, drive up the side of the extinct volcano of Rano Kau to peer down into its crater that is partly filled with water. From here, view the rugged volcanic coast as it is pounded by the Pacific surf. Wander among the ancient buildings in the former ceremonial village of Orongo, one of the principal sites of the "Birdman Ceremonies".

After lunch, your tour will take you to the southeast

coast of the island to visit the unrestored platform site of Vinapu. Your next visit will be to the small secondary volcano of Puna Pau. Puna Pau served as the main source of the volcanic stone Red Scoria. Your last stop today will be the restored platform site of Ahu Akivi which is noted to be the only platform whose Moai look to the ocean. Here you will learn the possible explanations for this special orientation. (B, L)

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## **DAY 3 RANO RARAKU VOLCANO, AHU TONGARIKI, PAPA VAKA, TE PITO KURA, ANAKENA**

Today's adventure will start at the volcano of Rano Raraku. This stop could very well be one of the most amazing sites in the world. The volcano of Rano Raraku is also known as the statue factory from where 95% of all of the statues on the island were carved. Our next stop is the amazing site of Ahu Tongariki which is the largest monolithic monument in all of Eastern Polynesia.

Your tour will then take you to the northwest coast of the island where you will visit the site of Papa Vaka, a beautiful petroglyph viewing area which exhibits the largest recorded petroglyph on the island and a variety of other petroglyph motifs to include; tuna fish, octopus, shark and many fish hooks. We continue on to the site of Ahu Te Pito Kura, the site of the largest moai to ever be installed onto a platform and is measured at 9.6 meters and weighing 82 tons. This site is also the place where the famous "navel of the world" is found.

The last stop of the day is Anakena where we will have lunch and an opportunity to swim on the beautiful white sand beach. We will also visit the perfectly restored Ahu, with its single Moai and which is noted to be the very first Moai on the island to be erected on top of its Ahu. (B, L)

## DAY 4 RUINS AND CAVES

Today's half day tour will take you first to the beautiful platform ruin of Akahanga, one of many unrestored Ahu sites on the island. Here you will learn about the turn of events which caused this incredible monolithic culture to literally come crashing down around the people and the ruins of the corresponding village.

Your second stop today will be to the lava tube cave of Ana Te Pahu which is one of hundreds of lava tube caves on the island. Steps have been made for visitors

to walk down into the cave. Here you will see the ancient islander's tradition of using some of these caves as protection for their gardens, as well as a great source of fresh water. (B)

## DAY 5 RETURN FLIGHT TO SANTIAGO

Transfer to Mataverí airport for your return flight to Santiago. At Santiago airport, depending on flight schedules, you may connect with international flights homeward. (B)





